

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

Minutes: Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, March 23, 2006
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Rm.

I. Roll Vice Chair Arthur called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arefi, Arthur, Chahal, Mateo, Swiger
Commissioners Absent: Garcia, Grilli, McCarter
City Council Liaison Absent: Bob Livengood
MUSD Liaison Absent: Marsha Grilli

II. Alternates Alternate Arefi was seated.

III. Minutes **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2006.

M/S: Swiger/Mateo Ayes: All

IV. Agenda **MOTION** to approve the March 23, 2006 agenda.

M/S: Swiger/Mateo Ayes: All

V. Announcements/Correspondence

Staff announced that all commissioners would be recognized at the City Council meeting on April 4th and hoped that all could attend.

VI. Citizen's Forum

None attending.

XII. Old Business

1. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP MILPITAS-TO-HUIZHOU CULTURAL EXCHANGE: APRIL 2006

The visit from China was cancelled due to a lack of applicants - only one high school teacher applied. Chair Grilli notified the City Council about the cancellation.

2. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILLIPINES: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Commissioner Mateo reported that on March 17th, Chair Grilli informed Dagupan about Commissioner Iringan's resignation and that the new contacts would be Grilli and Mateo. Mateo noted that there has not been any response to date from Dagupan and Chair Grilli will follow-up with them. Staff has posted announcements on local television and on the website. Chair Grilli is also in contact with the Principal of Milpitas High School. Mateo noted that they are aggressively looking for host families and have made connections via e-mail with various organizations. So far she noted that five families have shown interest and she has received two applications.

3. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN: SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP MILPITAS-TO-TSUKUBA CULTURAL EXCHANGE: June 19, 2006 – June 28, 2006

Vice Chair Arthur had the first orientation and noted that a total of thirteen people would be visiting Milpitas, which includes seven students. Arthur noted that Mayor Esteves had received an official invitation from Tsukuba and had not yet responded as to whether he could attend. Staff noted that the Mayor responded to her that he is unable to travel to Tsukuba. Arthur noted that Tsukuba would like to have a letter from the Mayor explaining briefly why he cannot attend. She is concerned because Tsukuba put significant effort, planning and funds into the tenth anniversary celebration. Tsukuba will also be sending up to forty people to Milpitas towards the end of September. Commissioner Swiger asked if all students attending would have home stays. Arthur said yes. Commissioner Arefi asked if the commission would like to make a request to Mayor Esteves to send an official response letter to Tsukuba and all commissioners concurred. Staff will follow-up with the Mayor.

4. ITALIAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH

In January, Commissioner Arefi discussed efforts that he made through the Sister County Commission, which did not come to fruition. His suggestion at that time was to put Milpitas as a city seeking sister city in Europe on the Sister Cities International website. There was a suggestion to look at cities outside of Italy if necessary and a recommendation was made to draft a letter to be e-mailed to several European cities already looking for a sister city. Arefi wrote a draft and distributed it to the commission. He noted that if the commission approves of the draft, he could go forward with sending it via e-mail. He is aware of two cities in France and two in Germany that are looking for sister cities. The commission concurred that the letter was okay to send. Swiger noted that he spoke with Karen Serpa recently and she asked if any progress was made with an Italian sister city. Mrs. Serpa stated that she could help in finding another city in Florence Province, Italy to consider. The Sister County Commission has a relationship with Florence Province, Italy and hopes that cities in Santa Clara County could have sister city relationships with cities in Florence Province. Arefi noted that he would make contact with Mrs. Serpa again. The Commission agreed to pursue sending out e-mails to

European cities seeking sister cities and to initiate further contact with the Sister County Commission to try to find another city in Florence Province, Italy.

5. OPEN GOVERNMENT ANNUAL TRAINING

This item was moved to the next meeting on April 27, 2006.

XIII. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Sister City Relationships/Cultural Exchanges:
 - a. Tsukuba City, Japan
 - b. Dagupan City, Philippines
 - c. Huizhou City, China
2. European Sister City Research
3. 2006 Work Plan Update, as needed

X. Adjournment

No further business was discussed and the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 27, 2006.

MOTION to adjourn.

M/S: Mateo/Arefi Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary

Cindy Maxwell
Principal Administrative Analyst